

Telling Our Story

what's up, DOC!



Merajudin Amiri, Operations Manager of Tak Dana Food Processing Company, inspects their produce before it is packaged for export.

Timely Loan Inspires Growth

Haji Eshan knew there was a huge market for his agribusiness, but he lacked the capital to hire additional employees and buy large quantities of fruit and vegetables from local farmers.

He sought help in securing a loan so Tak Dana Food Processing Co., which repackages agricultural products for sale domestically and abroad, could take on new clients.

USAID assisted him prepare the loan application, assessed the amount of

financing needed, and worked with the Afghanistan Rural Finance Company.

Tak Dana used the loan to purchase a bumper harvest of fruits and vegetables from farmers in the spring of 2012.

"We were able to secure our inventory early and avail of special prices through contract farming," said Haji Eshan.

Contract farming enables buyers to purchase agricultural products at preferential rates and gives farmers the security of guaranteed prices for their products.

Tip of the Week

It's your turn to talk!

Tell us what you would like to see in your newsletter.

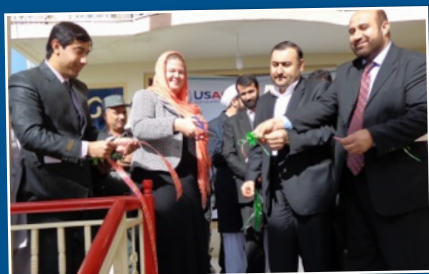


Want to learn more about the people, the projects, or the country? Or just have a random question?

kabulAIDdoc@usaid.gov is open for business!

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Also in this edition...



Linking Citizens to Legal Services



Bowling Up Opportunities in Kandahar



Photo of the Week

Linking Citizens to Legal Services

Ensuring citizens have a strong understanding of their rights and have access to adequate legal resources is one of the most important responsibilities of any legal system. Enter the Afghanistan Independent Bar Association (AIBA).

With support from USAID, AIBA opened its first regional sub-office in Balkh Province in late 2012. The Balkh location is the first of four planned sub-offices, with Kandahar, Herat, and Nangarhar to follow.

Balkh Appeals Court Chief and Director of the Balkh Justice Directorate, Mr. Qarizada, emphasized the need for cooperation between the two judicial arms – prosecution and defense – to ensure the judicial system upholds the rule of law and safeguards citizens' rights. "AIBA enshrines the right to justice and legal representation for all people," he said.

USAID's Support the Afghanistan Independent Bar Association (SAIBA) program, which is helping open the AIBA sub-offices, aims to increase understanding of, and access to, legal and justice systems.



Ribbon-cutting at the Balkh regional sub-office



The Director of the Department of Sports and Olympics presents jerseys to a team captain.

Cricket in Kandahar

Afghanistan is not so different from the rest of the world. Wherever you go, sports bring people together, encouraging community participation and creating lifelong friendships.

For a long time these gatherings have been rare due to security and economic concerns, but now they .

Keeping in mind cricket's growing popularity and the lack of opportunities for youth in Kandahar City, the Community Cohesion Initiative, the Provincial Department of Sports and Olympics, and the Kandahar Cricket Board, attracted eight local teams to a city-wide cricket tournament. This seven-day event occurred in one of the city's most underserved areas.

Throughout the tournament, players and spectators reacted positively and friendly rivalries added to the excitement. Ahmad

Shahi Cricket Team from Sub-District Six beat the Roshan Team from Sub-District Eight in the final match, 138 to 139 runs and four wickets.

The winning team received trophies and certificates of recognition from the Director of Sports and Olympics. All participants received cricket uniforms and sports equipment, encouraging future matches and cooperation between districts. The victorious captain declared that "this activity encourages youth to come together to embrace sports instead of drugs and crime."

Timely Loan... (cont'd)

... brothers and sisters," said Hassina, who recounted her family's dire situation before she found this job.

By the end of 2012, Haji Eshan already has repaid 50 percent of the loan and has plans to expand even further. "We have enough working capital this time and we have opened a branch in Dubai," he said proudly. Tak Dana can now export over \$400,000 of produce per year to Dubai.

facebook focus



Steve McCurry's famous 1985 National Geographic photo, "Afghan Girl", recently sold for \$147,000.
Read more >> <http://goo.gl/wLjst>

Likes: 563 **Comments:** 193 **Shares:** 3,092



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Postcards from Afghanistan!

Dear *(someone's)* Grandma!

Remember when you asked what I'm doing over here, well...

the **Community Cohesion Initiative** works in unstable areas to help people become better able to resist and recover from adverse situations, such as insurgent pressures. We provide small grants to local community leaders, and we do it all through our Afghan colleagues who live in the communities. Activities could include the rehabilitation of a school or health clinic, road repair, or conflict resolution training for community leaders, all aimed at addressing local problems.

Even better, the community is involved in the design and running of every activity, helping to build links between the community and local leaders; traditional & Afghan government. This builds relationships and helps the community continue with similar activities after our funding ends.

Simply put, we try to lay the foundation for stronger communities. Our work helps unify villages and districts, encourages them to discuss community issues, and then work together to solve problems and achieve common goals.

Wish you were here!

Molly

Photo of the Week

Season Honey received a \$100,000 loan, allowing them to procure an additional 33,000 kilograms of raw honey and increase the company's production by 125%. This expansion also benefited nearly 300 beekeepers from eastern Afghanistan.

Project: Agricultural Credit Enhancement (ACE)
Location: Nangarhar, Afghanistan

